

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 15-22, and 24-38 are presented for further examination. Claims 2, 5, 7-14, and 23 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 15, 22, and 24-30 have been amended, and claims 31-38 are new.

In the Office Action mailed December 2, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 15-19, 21-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,336,158. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,336,158. Claims 5-14, 23-26, and 28-30 were found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended the claims to accept all of the claims found allowable by the Examiner.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 5. Thus, claim 1 is now claim 5 rewritten into independent form. Applicants submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 3, 4, and 6 are now allowable.

Dependent claims 7-14 were also found to be allowable. These dependent claims have each been rewritten into independent format as new claims 31-38, respectively. More particularly, new claim 31 is allowable claim 7 rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 1. Similarly, claims 32-38 are allowable dependent claims 8-14 rewritten into independent form to be in combination with base claim 1. Thus, applicants submit all of these claims are clearly allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 5. In view of the finding of allowability of claim 5, including the Examiner's remarks indicating that the art does not teach or suggest an XOR logic gate acting as a decorrelation block and acting as a selection block capable of selecting the current output value, applicants submit that independent claim 15 as well as dependent claims 16-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable dependent claim 23 has been rewritten into independent form by combining it with independent claim 22. Thus, claim 22 is now dependent claim 23 rewritten into independent form. Similarly, claims 24-30 have each been rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of original claim 22. In view of the finding of allowability of

claims 23-30 if rewritten into independent form, applicants submit that claim 22 and claims 24-30 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the claims in this application are allowable. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



E. Russell Tarleton  
Registration No. 31,800

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Enclosure:  
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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